

Brittany's Donor Match Falls Through

Family Is Hopeful New Donor Can Be Found



Brittany Lambert is still in need of a bone marrow donor after initial reports that an appropriate match had been found dissolved in disappointment in early December.

Brittany's mother, Linda Haenel, of Lake Shore Drive, described the "roller coaster ride" her 11-year-old daughter and the family have gone through since word came in October that a donor had been found.

"It's very disappointing. Brittany was very ready and mentally geared for the ordeal she faced," said Haenel Tuesday.

Because of the anonymous nature of the donor

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program, Haenel did not know why doctors at Dana Farber changed their minds about the adequacy of the bone marrow, previously identified as a 100% match.

"The best Christmas present we could receive is to get a call saying another match has been found," Haenel said. We have hope."

Brittany has a rare blood disease known as myelodysplasia, that can lead to an adult form of leukemia without a bone marrow transplant. It is the same disease suffered by former U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas.

Brittany had already begun tests at Children's Hospital in preparation for the bone marrow transplant which would have confined her to the isolation ward for transplant patients for several months.

She is now back in school in the 6th grade at DES.

Last August, the largest bone marrow drive in New England history took place in Duxbury when over 2,000 potential donors turned out to help Brittany.

Haenel said anyone wishing to help should contact the N.E. Marrow Donor Bank at 1-800-676-4545 or N.E. Medical Center's Blood Bank in Braintree across from So. Shore Plaza and in Boston. During the week of Jan. 27-Feb. 1, N.E. Medical Center will cover the costs of on-site bone marrow testing for anybody who will make a platelet donation.

Call Julie Fallon at 617-794-1800, x3024 for an appointment. Individual drive assistance coordination is also available.